

An Essay on
Chronic Acid.

Respectfully submitted
To the Faculty of the
Homœopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania, and hope
they may find on the
Twenty second day of January

Eighteen Hundred & Fifty two,
by

Henry Duffield
of
Pennsylvania

Chromic Acid

Peroxide of Chromium

Ch. Cr.

This Acid is of a dark red color almost black
thin, lustrous, sour, and Metallic, and soluble in

In accordance with the recommendation
of several of the Professors of the Institution,
of which I have the honor to be a member,
I have selected as the subject of a Thesis,
the properties of Chromic Acid, made
by myself and one of my fellow Students,
in the early part of the session, and hope
they may prove acceptable, and an useful
addition to our Materia Medica.

The solution by a gentle heat, the Hyposulfuric acid
escapes, and the Chromic Acid is retained pure.
Or, instead of pouring the vapors into water,
let it strike against a sheet of blotting paper,
loosely crumpled by the hand into a ball, the vapors
will be absorbed as before, and the Chromic Acid
obtained in dry crystals.

(Francis' Chemical Experiments)

Chromic Acid

Peroxide of Chromium Cr_2O_3

This Acid, is of a dark red color, almost black when heated; Sour, and Metallic; and Soluble in Water.

To procure the Acid, Mix four parts of Chrome Yellow (Chromate of Lead) with three parts of finely powdered Fluor Spar, previously treated to redness, and five parts of strong Sulphuric Acid. Heat this in a Lead or Silver Retort, and a red vapour will be liberated. This vapour is the Fluoride of Chromium, which by adding water, is decomposed into Hydrofluoric, and Chromic Acids. By evaporating the solution by a gentle heat, the Hydrofluoric acid escapes, and the Chromic Acid is retained pure.

Or. Instead of receiving the red vapour into water let it strike against a sheet of blotting paper loosely crumpled by the hand into a ball; the vapour will be decomposed as before, and the Chromic Acid obtained in dry crystals.

(Francis' Chemical Experiments)

The following is another, and said to be a better mode of procuring pure Chromic Acid, and was that used in procuring the Acid used in the following proceedings.

Formulae $\text{Chr} + \text{O}_3$.

Chromosuperfluoride, $\text{Chr} + \text{F}_6$, produces when coming in contact with water, Chromic Acid and Fluoric Acid.

$\text{Chr} + \text{F}_6$ and $3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ give $\text{Chr} + \text{O}_3$ and $3\text{H}_2 + \text{F}_2$.

Mix four parts of Chromic-acid-oxide of Lead with three parts of Fluor Spar, free from Silicic Acid, and seven parts of Smoking (Strong) Sulphuric Acid, in a Retort of Lead or Platina, and conduct the escaping vapours (gasses) of Superfluoride into a Platina Crucible containing water, in which decomposition takes place. Then evaporating the fluid in the Crucible, the Fluoric Acid escapes, and the Chromic Acid remains in form of a dark red, but not Crystalline substance.

If the Platina Crucible is moistened with water, and the opening covered with moist paper, the

decomposition of Chromo-superfluoric gas which is conducted into it takes place by the moisture of the air thus produced; Fluoric acid gas escapes, and the Crucible is filled with a very loose mass of cinnamon-red needle like Crystals of Chromic Acid,

By these processes it forms in the one case a red substance; and in the other red needle like Crystals.

When heated it appears black - is easily soluble with water; and forms a brown solution.

It readily parts with its Oxygen, and when coming in contact with organic bodies, especially with Alcohol, sugar, or paper, becomes disoxydized, and an Oxide.

In the preparation of the medicine, the brown substance was used. Seven grains of it was dissolved in One hundred drops of distilled water, and one drop of the solution taken to Ninety nine drops of distilled water, and 20 Shakes given. The first Six Potions were prepared in this manner. From the 6th to the 20th. Alcohol was used.

Proving of Chronic Aeria

First Prover.

On the 3^d, 4th and 5th days of November these doses per day of the medicine was taken, beginning with one drop, and increasing the dose one drop at each time. The 5th Potency was used.

Novem. 4th. Dull pain over the left eye as if lacrimula would set in.

Novem. 5th. At 10 A.M. throbbing pulsation sensation from the region of the heart to the left eye, and left side of the head, with a general feeling of fullness in the Frontal region.

Slightly acute pains in the left Hypochondria. Appetite good. Bowels regular. Pulse full and a little accelerated.

At 10. P.M. sensation of lightness of the head like vertigo, with heat in the face.

Late going to sleep, with restlessness during the night and anxious dreams.

Novem. 6th. Began with the 6th Potency and

continued till the 9th exclusion, 3 doses & day, 1 drop the first and increasing as before.

At 10 A.M. Dull aching pain on the top of the left shoulder, as if from great fatigue, which lasted two hours. Pulse 62. (Normal Pulse 55)

At 10 P.M. Pulse 56. Rested better.

Novem. 7th At 7 A.M. Pulse 64.

At 8 A.M. Haemorrhoidal discharge from the anus, during stool.

At 12 M. Pulse 56.

At 9 P.M. Pain in Lumbar region of the Back. Pulse 64.

At night distressing dreams. About to be put to death by poison, and at same time innocent of crime.

Novem 8th At 7 A.M. Pulse 48.

At 10 A.M. Sensation of paralysis in Right leg from the knee down. Pulse 62.

At 10 P.M. Pulse 62.

At night slept well.

Novem 9th At 8 A.M. Pretty copious Hamorrhoidal discharges from the anus, during stool, with weakness in the small of the back.

Accumulation of tough mucus in the throat with constant inclination to swallow it, as it could not be easily hawked up.

Pulse 64. Restraint pulse at night.

Novem 10th Accumulation of mucus as yesterday accompanied with the same sensations.

At 7 A.M. Pulse 48. At 3 P.M. 64.

Very painful External piles on left side of Anus.

Novem 11th The External piles have disappeared. This, and an internal one bleeding.

Novem 12th At 8 A.M. Hamorrhoidal discharge from Anus during stool.

Feeling of fullness in the Head, and sensation of rawness or soreness in the Chest with a slight dry hacking Cough.

At night fullness of the Head, with a peculiar sensation of lightness at the heart,

and Vertigo, when descending stairs.

Feet cold. (Naturally burning hot)

Novem. 13th At 8. A.M. Pulse 72.

Slight pain and throbbing pulsation in the left Lung.

Throbbing and sensation of fullness in the forepart of the head, and of emptiness in the Chest, with soreness on pressure; and cold feet.

Eyes sore, and feel heavy as if inflamed.

Pulse 84 at 4 P.M.

At night dreamed that I had an attack of Strangury, which on awakening in the morning proved to be the case, and from which I did not get relief for nearly two hours.

Novem. 18th For four successive days took two doses per day of the 30th Potency, increasing each dose as before.

Novem 20th At 4 o'clock this morning was awakened with a feeling of uneasiness in the lower part of the Abdomen, which was very

son to the touch, especially along the course of
the Colon, accompanied with nausea, and fre-
quent eructations, and retchings, throwing off
white mucus. Pulse 52.

At 8. A.M. Diarrhaic discharge from the
bowels after which the Pulse rose to 75.

No appetite for Breakfast.

At 10 A.M. while walking sensation of
Vertigo which inclined me continually to the
right side.

Weakness in the Chest, and a kind of
itching in the left knee joint when walking.

At 4 P.M. Pulse 75.

At 8 P.M. weakness and knocking of the
left knee joint when walking.

At 8½ P.M. Small stool of mucus and
knotty faeces.

Novem 21st Slept well until 5 o'clock this morning
when I awoke with sensation of fullness in the vertex
and frontal region.

At 8 A.M. Copious Haemorrhoidal discharge during
Stool. Pulse 70.

Left Knee joint still weak and knocking.

At 4 P.M. Weakness and pain in the small of
the back.

At 6 P.M. while sitting, a sharp shooting pain
from Lumbar vertebrae to the crest of the Ilium of
the right side.

Yesterday and to day my mind has been in a state
of great confusion, and my memory very much affected;
at times to such a degree that I found myself at a
loss when writing to know how to make several of
the letters of the Alphabet.

Lips dry and disposed to chap. Pulse 70 all day.
Novem 22^d Had a restless night, with a sensation
of swelling of the balls of the Eyes, which continued
until after I arose. They feel as if much enlarged.

At 7½ A.M. Pulse 80. At 3 P.M. 76. Good appetite.
The sensation of fullness of the head, and confusion of
mind and memory about the same as yesterday.

Novem 23. Slept well all night, but had unpleasant dreams which cannot be remembered.

At 10 A.M. Sensation of coldness on the back of the neck.

In the afternoon and evening, rheumatic feeling in the right knee joint.

Novem 24. Rested well last night.

At 10. A.M. Stiffness of the muscles on the left side of the back of the neck, and stricture in the Chest in the region of the heart. Puls. 82.

At 12 M. Pain from ball of right eye up into the Anterior of the Brain, with soreness of the Orb to the touch, and throbbing pulsation through the Chest, with cold feet, even when walking. Puls. 58.

At 3. P.M. Shooting pain from small of the back into the left hip bone. Puls. 68.

In this noon, the irregularity of the pulse was very remarkable. On some days in a single hour the variations would pass from 60 to 84, the pulsations, scarcely ever being the same in two successive hours.

Second prover.

1st proving.

Novem 3. For 4 successive days, this prover took two doses per day of the 7th potency.

On the fourth day he felt a "general coldness all over." "At night many dreams - he dreams of crossing a stream on horseback, the stream, and the water on him freezes." "Pulse below standard."

2^d proving.

After an interval of about two weeks, this prover commenced with the 30th potency which he took for four or five days, two or three doses per day, increasing at every dose.

Novem 20th. Bowels regular, and in usual health otherwise. Diet plain & uniform.

Pulse 58.

(Normal Pulse 64)

Novem. 21st. Felt an uneasiness in the bowels before rising in the morning, similar to the premonitory symptoms of Diarrhea, which passed away on rising.

At 10. A.M. Felt a heavy pain along the

Coronal suture, extending backward, occupying all the Parietal portion of the head. Was not relieved by eating dinner, nor by warmth nor cold, nor an hour's walk in the cold air. - These symptoms remained until 4 P.M.

At 2 P.M. after dinner qualmsick of the stomach which lasted until 4 P.M.

Became excessively sleepy an hour before his usual bed time.

Novem. 22. Awoke at 5 A.M. very restless. Could not lie quiet 5 minutes at a time.

At 6 A.M. Experienced a severe sharp pain in the Hypogastric region, and along the ascending Colon, which became very severe and cutting, and lasted half an hour when he was relieved by a profuse Diarrhoea which lasted 3 hours. Then the symptoms all ceased, and were over the same as yesterday set in, followed by the same sickness of stomach, both of which lasted until 4 P.M. as before.

Novem 26th Awoke this morning with pain in the Colon, accompanied with rumbling of wind, which passed off on rising. Headache set in at 10 A.M. and continued until 4 P.M. as before."

After an interval of some days, this process resumed the usual doses, of the effects of which he says "All the symptoms returned in the above order, but lighter each time of trial."

And in a note accompanying his proving, he says, "The last medicine, 30th potency, affected the circulation. My pulse was slower, and I could not get warm for nearly a week after I had finished the medicine."

Having in the foregoing pages given the provings in detail, as exhibited from day to day, I shall now proceed to arrange the symptoms, according to the various Organs and parts affected, and in the order in which I find them in Hahnemann's works, knowing that I could not leave a better model.

Chronic Acid.

Arrangement of symptoms according to the organs
and parts affected.

Mind

1. Confusion of mind. 1st Proven. 12th day. 30th potency.

Loss of memory - unable to form the letters of the alphabet.

1st P. 12th day. 30th po.

Head

Dull pain over the left orbit. 1st day. 5th po. 1st Proven

Throbbing sensation in the left side of the head, extending from the heart. 2nd day. 5th po. 1st P.

5. Sensation of fullness in fore part of head. 2nd day. 5th po.

Feeling of fullness in the head with sensation of lightness at the heart, and vertigo when descending stairs, and

Cold feet. 9th day. 6th po. 1st P.

Throbbing and sensation of fullness in fore head, and

Cold feet. 10th day. 6th po. 1st P.

Sensation of fullness in the vertex, and over the frontal region. 12th day. 30th po. 1st P.

10. Sensation of fullness in the head, and confusion

of mind. 13th day. 30th mo. 1st P.

13. Pain in anterior part of the brain extending from the right eye. 15th day. 30th mo. 1st P.

Heavy pain along the coronal suture, and both parietes, commencing at 10 A.M. and lasting until 4 P.M. 2^d. 3^d & 4th days. 30th mo. 2^d P.

Sensorium

Sensation of lightness of the head like vertigo with heat in the face. 2^d day 5th mo. 1st P.

Vertigo when descending stairs, with sensation of lightness at the heart. 9th day. 6th mo. 1st P.

15. Sensation of vertigo while walking, with inclination to the right side. 11th day. 30th mo. 1st P.

This sensation lasted for several days

Eyes.

1. Throbbing pulsation from region of the heart to the left eye. 2^d day. 5th mo. 1st P.

Eyes sore & feel heavy as if inflamed. 11th day. 6th mo. 1st P.

Sensation of swelling of the balls of the eye, which feel enlarged. 13th day. 30th mo. 1st P.

Pain in the ball of the right eye extending up
into the anterior part of the brain - with sore-
ness to the touch. 15th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Face

20. Itch in the face with lightness of the nose. 2nd day. 5th po 1st P.

Stomach

21. Nausea and eructations 11th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Itching up of white mucus. 11th day. 30th po. 1st P

Nausea from 2 to 4 P.M. 1st 2. 3rd day. 30th po. 2nd P.

Abdomen

Acute pain in Left Hypochondria. 2nd day. 5th po. 1st P.

25 Uneasy sick feeling in the lower part of the
abdomen. 11th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Soreness of the abdomen to the touch, especially
on the course of the Colon. 11th day 30th po. 1st P.

Uneasiness in the bowels before rising. 1st day. 30th po. 2nd P.

Seven sharp pains in Hypogastric region, and along
the ascending Colon. 2nd day. 30th po. 2nd P.

Rumbling of wind in the abdomen, with pain in
the colon. 3rd day. 30th po. 2nd P.

Stool and Anus.

30. Internal bleeding Hemorrhoids. 4th 6th 8th
and 9th days. 6th po. 1st P.

External Hemorrhoids on the left side of
the Anus. 7th day 6th po. 1st P.

Diarrhoea. 11th day. 30th 1st P.

Stool of mucus and knotty faeces. 11th day 30th po. 1st P.

Diarrhoea from 7 to 10. A.M. 30th po. 2^d P.

Urinary Organs.

35. Strangury. 10th day. 6th po. 1st P.

Throat.

Accumulation of tough mucus with inclination
to swallow. 6th 7 days. 6th po. 1st P.

Mucus in the throat which could not be hawked up.

Chest.

Throbbing pulsation from the heart to the left eye
and side of the head. 2^d day. 5th po. 1st P.

Feeling of rawness and soreness in the chest with
dry hacking cough. 9th day. 6th po. 1st P.

40. Sensation of lightness at the heart, with

- Vertigo when descending stairs. 9th day. 6th po. 1st P.
44. Pain & throbbing sensation in right lung. 10th day. 6th po.
- Feeling of emptiness in the chest, with soreness
on pressure - and cold feet. 10th day. 6th po. 1st P.
- Stricture in the region of the heart. 15th day. 30th po. 1st P.
- Throbbing pulsation through the chest - with
cold feet. 15th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Back

45. Pain in the Lumbar region. 11th day 6th po. 1st P.
- Weakeness in the small of the back from
hemorrhoids. 6th day. 6th po. 1st P.
- Weakeness, and pain in the small of the
back. 12th day. 30th po. 1st P.
- Sharp shooting pain from the lumbar vertebrae
to the crest of the right ilium. 13th day. 30th po. 1st P.
- Sensation of coldness in the back of the neck.
14th day. 30th po. 1st P.
50. Stiffness of the muscles on the right side of the
 back of the neck. 15th day. 30th po. 1st P.
- Shooting pain from the back into left hip bone.

Superior Extremities

Dull aching pain on the top of the left shoulder, as if from great fatigue for 2 hours. 3^d day. 6th po. 1st P.

Lower Extremities

Sensation of paralysis in the right leg from the knee down. 5th day. 6th po. 1st P.

Itching in the left knee joint. 11th day. 30th po. 1st P.

55 Weakness of, and knocking in the left knee joint when walking. 11th & 12th days. 30th po. 1st P.

61 Rheumatic feeling in right knee joint. 14th d. 30th po. 1st P.

Cold feet. 9th & 10 days 6th po. 1st P.

70 Cold feet when walking. 15th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Sleep and Dreams

Late going to sleep. 2^d day. 5th po. 1st P.

60 Great restlessness during the night. 5th po. 1st P.

62 Anxious dreams 2^d d. 5th po. 1st P.

Distressing dreams. Dreams he is about to be put to death by poison. 8th day. 6th po. 1st P.

Dreamed he had an attack of strangury, which was the case on awaking in the morning. 10th day. 6th po. 1st P.

Restless at night. 13th d. 30th po. 1st P.

65 Unpleasant dreams which he cannot remember. 14th day. 30th po. 1st P.

66 At night many dreams. 7th po. 2nd P.

67 He dreams of crossing a stream on horseback. the stream and the water on him freezes. 7th po. 2nd P.

68 Expressively sleeping on beam before his usual bed time. 30th po. 2nd P.

69 Awoke at 5 A.M. very restless - could not be quiet since midnight at a time 30th po. 2nd P.

70 Fever

70 At 10 A.M. Pulse 62. Normal pulse 55. - 3rd d. 6th po. 1st P.

71 Pulse 64 in the morning. 56 at noon, and 64 at night. 4th day. 6th po. 1st P.

72 Pulse 48 in the morning. 62 at noon & night. 5th d. 6th po. 1st P.

73 Pulse 64 generally through the day. 6th d. 6th po. 1st P.

74 Pulse 48 in the morning - 64 in afternoon. 7th d. 6th po. 1st P.

75 Pulse 72 in the morning - 84 in afternoon. 10th d. 6th po. 1st P.

76 Pulse 52 at 4 in the morning - 78 at 8 A.M., and 78 in the afternoon. 11th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Pulse 70 all day. 12th day. 30th po. 1st P.

Pulse 80 in the morning - 76 in afternoon, 13th d. 30th po. 1st P.

Pulse 82 in the morning - 58 at noon - and 68 in the afternoon. 15th day. 30th po. 1st P.

80. Pulse runs below the standard. 7th po. 2^d P.

Pulse 58. (normal pulse 64) 30th po. 2^d P.

Pulse generally slowed. 2^d P.

General symptoms.

Great irregularity of the Pulse.

Dull aching pains in various parts of the body.

85 Throbbing pulsations in different parts, especially in the chest and region of the heart.

Sensation of coldness in different parts.

Acute pains in the region of the colon, and back and hips.

General coldness all over lasting several days.

Aggravation from 6 A.M. till 4 P.M.
